

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 DPW-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /042 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1937

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 12167

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PGOV ET

SUBJ: PRISONER RELEASE AND DEATH OF PMAC MEMBER

SUMMARY: RADIO AND PRESS HAVE CARRIED ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT (EPMG) ANNOUNCEMENT OF AMNESTY GRANTED TO 109 PRISONERS AND DEATH OF PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL (PMAC) MEMBER SGT YILMA KEBEDE FROM ILLNESS. END SUMMARY.

1. ANNOUNCEMENT OF AMNESTY OF 109 PRISONERS PROVIDED NO INFORMATION REGARDING THEIR IDENTITY, BUT INDICATED ONLY THAT THEY HAD BEEN DETAINED FOR "ACTS AGGRAVATING COUNTRY'S ILLS". RELIABLE SOURCE STATED THAT 109 PRISONERS DID NOT INVOLVE ANY MAJOR POLITICAL PRISONERS AND WERE MOSTLY YOUNGSTERS ARRESTED FOR INNOCENTLY DISTRIBUTING AND SELLING ANTI-GOVERNMENT PAMPHLETS. SOURCE BELIEVED THAT PRISONERS RELEASED HAD BECOME DIRG SYMPATHIZERS AND ADDITIONAL SPACE WAS NEEDED IN PRISONS.

2. SGT YILMA HAD BEEN ELECTED BY POLICE TO ARMED FORCES COORDINATING COMMITTEE IN JUNE 1974, AND REMAINED MEMBER OF PMAC AFTER OVERTHROW OF HAILE SELASSIE GOVERNMENT. SGT. YILMA WAS REPORTED TO BE IN SOVIET UNION FOR FURTHER EDUCATION WHEN HE BECAME SERIOUSLY ILL. ILLNESS WAS DIAGNOSED AS FATAL IN SOVIET UNION, RELIABLE SOURCE STATING IT WAS CIRRHOSIS OF LIVER, AND YILMA SENT HOME BEFORE DEATH. HE ADMITTED TO POLICE HOSPITAL IN ADDIS WHERE HE DIED DECEMBER 5. FUNERAL SERVICES HELD YESTERDAY ATTENDED BY ALL MAJOR FIGURES IN PMAC AS WELL AS OTHER PMAC MEMBERS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CABINET MINISTERS, AND SENIOR OFFICERS OF ARMED FORCES

AND POLICE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Concepts: AMNESTY, PRISONERS RELEASE, DEATHS, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760453-0582
From: ADDIS ABABA
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Subject: PRISONER RELEASE AND DEATH OF PMAC MEMBER SUMMARY: RADIO AND PRESS HAVE CARRIED ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT (EPMG) ANNOUNCEMENT OF AMN ESTY
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, ET, (YILMA KEBEDE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006